

Richard Hung; David Jacobs; Sravanthi Kadali; Sibel Kayaalp*; Amber Khan; Nolan Killingsworth; Lauren Kraut; Tyler LeCocq; Kenny Lee; Amanda Lu*; Mark Macmanus*; Ryan Martinez; Alexandra Meyers; Ashley Newton*; Cody Painter; Kioumars Abboss Rezaie; Corbin Ringley*; Evan Rosenfield*; Natalie Shanklin; Rena Sheng*; Bryan Sims; Cameron Sprock; Eann Tuan; Jonathan Unger; Tyler Unger; Eric Womboldt; Joshua Womboldt*; and Caitlyn Woolum.

TRIBUTE TO ARTHUR GIDDON

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Arthur Giddon of Bloomfield, Connecticut. Over the past century, Art has cultivated a distinguished law career, serving as a notable trial lawyer as well as a chief public defender. He has a wonderful and devoted wife, Harriet, to whom he has been married to for over 60 years. Together they have raised a beautiful family. On April, 26, 2009, Art will celebrate his 100th birthday with friends and family in Connecticut.

In 1922, at the age of 13, Art joined the Boston Braves as a batboy. He fetched pop bottles, ran errands for players, polished equipment, and conversed with baseball legends. First baseman, Walter Holke, often walked him home after games and taught him how to make kites, a skill that he would pass on to grandchildren. His chance meeting with baseball's commissioner, Kenesaw Mountain Landis, and a suggestion to become a lawyer would portend a legal profession matched by few. Decades later after Mr. Landis' suggestion, he would study at Harvard Law and become a notable lawyer in Connecticut. In 1985, he retired as the chief public defender of the Harford Judicial District, after decades of public service.

This past week, Art's unique experience as a batboy has gained national media attention. On Saturday, Art will join the Boston Red Sox, the team he passionately cheers for, as an honorary batboy in recognition of his experience as a young boy decades ago. He will make his debut in a jersey crafted by his daughter, adorned with "No. 100, Big Pappy".

Few individuals experience as much and contribute as much as over the course of their lifetime as Arthur has. Madame Speaker, I can personally attest to this. As a young law student, I worked in Art's office for two years as a legal intern and learned a lifelong lesson in the law, as well as a balanced passion for justice. He has lived an extraordinary life, filled with personal and professional vigor and I ask my colleagues to join with me and my constituents in celebrating his 100th birthday.

A TRIBUTE TO MINA H. PHINNEY

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and to celebrate the 100th

birthday of a native daughter of the State of Maine. Her unwavering dedication as an educator in Dennysville and other local communities will be cherished for years to come.

Mina Phinney graduated from Dennysville High School and went on to continue her education at Colby College in Waterville, ME. Returning to Dennysville High School in 1931, Mina taught English and French until 1938 and then returned to resume teaching from 1952 until the school closed in 1961. Her career as a dedicated educator continued through the 1960s and 1970s at Washington Academy in East Machias. In 2000, she received the school's Distinguished Educator Award from the Washington Academy Board of Trustees.

During her earlier years, Mina served as an organist at the Dennysville-Edmunds Congregational Church. She is an avid Boston Red Sox fan and has always maintained a keen interest in local, state and national happenings and always keeps up with current events. Mina has been a lifelong member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. She contributed to the war effort as an Air Craft Spotter during World War II.

Madam Speaker, please join me in celebrating the 100th birthday of Mina H. Phinney.

RECOGNIZING 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF DIABLO THEATRE COMPANY

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Diablo Theatre Company, founded in 1959 as the Diablo Light Opera Company. For five decades, Diablo Theatre Company has brought San Francisco Bay Area audiences "the music and magic of Broadway."

The company grew from modest beginnings. It was founded in 1959 as the Diablo Light Opera Company, a name that endured until May of this year. The founders were two Walnut Creek couples who were inspired by singing with the 120-member Glee Club and Treble Clef at UC Berkeley. Their last show on campus was, prophetically, "Of Thee I Sing."

The Diablo Light Opera Company's first offering was Gilbert and Sullivan's "The Pirates of Penzance," staged in the multipurpose room of Walnut Creek's Las Lomas High School.

A few years later, the new company presented "Brigadoon," marking a major turning point for the arts in Walnut Creek. Ron Caya, Walnut Creek's first cultural services director, attended a performance. Since seats at the Las Lomas multipurpose room were not on an incline, his view was obstructed and he could not see the famous sword dance in the show. He subsequently complained to the Walnut Creek City Council, telling members that, "This group needs a real theater."

He got the council's attention and plans were made to buy an old walnut warehouse, which occupied what is now the site of the Leshner Center for the Arts. The warehouse was transformed into a makeshift theater, the

Walnut Creek Civic Arts Center which became affectionately known as the "Nut House." It opened in December 1965 with Diablo Light Opera Company's production of "The Sound of Music." The audience came in black tie and, because of no heating in the building, blankets.

Years and many performances later, "Nut House" was demolished. A new performing arts venue, the Leshner Center for the Arts, was constructed and opened 19 years ago. Diablo Light Opera Company has performed at the Leshner Center ever since in addition to other venues, including the recently restored El Campanil Theatre in Antioch in eastern Contra Costa County.

Beginning in June of 2009, Diablo Light Opera Company will assume its new name, Diablo Theatre Company while celebrating its colorful past and focusing on the future.

Today, the Diablo Light Opera Company is celebrated and honored for enriching the cultural atmosphere through their craft and commitment to providing theatrical productions to the Bay Area.

RECOGNIZING JUSTINA CASSAVELL

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Justina Cassavell, daughter of Jeanne and Michael Doyle of Upper Black Eddy, Bucks County, Pennsylvania and someone who is helping to shape the next generation of Americans.

Justina's dedication as head coach of her girls cross country team has allowed her student athletes to excel both on and off the field. She was recently named the Express-Times Newspaper 2008 Cross Country Coach of the Year. This is the sixth time she has received this honor in eight seasons.

Justina was also inducted into the NJ Scholastic Coaches Association Hall of Fame on March 29th of this year. As head coach of the Voorhees High School girls cross country team since 1997, Justina has led her team to numerous victories, including its seventh straight Hunterdon-Warren NJ championship, third straight North 2 Group 3 sectional title, fifth NJ State Interscholastic Athletic Association Group 3 state title, and second Meet of Champions crown.

The recognition and appreciation that Ms. Cassavell has been shown is no small feat, considering she is a part-time coach. Present and past students alike have called her the "inspiration" in their lives, as she teaches them to believe in themselves and to strive to be great in all that they do.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join me in recognizing Justina Cassavell for her hard work and dedication to her student athletes—she sets an example for students and teachers everywhere and that is something we should be encouraging more and more.